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MEMORANDUM FOR: William Donnelly

Deputy Director for Administration

25X1 FROM

Chairman, Fine Arts Commission

SUBJECT

: Activities of the Commission

I know there are any number of important issues that are facing you, many of which need immediate decisions. May I add just a few more items to an already crowded agenda?

As I'm sure you know, the Fine Arts Commission was established to "advise the DCI on esthetic matters relating to the Headquarters Building and grounds." This charter, though advisory in nature, is a broad one, and indeed the Commission frequently serves in negotiation, research and scheduling. would like first of all to share with you a little of what the Commission gets involved in and how we function. important, I would like to discuss with you some concerns relating to our mandate. There have been recent instances where the Commission has been bypassed altogether (as examples: the current discussions on an additional memorial in the lobby of the entrance for those whose affiliation with the Agency must be secret and the numerous instances of replacing snack bars with machines displayed prominently in the halls) or consulted only belatedly. Under these circumstances, we find it difficult to provide the kind of help that I think benefits the Agency as a whole. A clear role for the Commission and acknowledgement of and support for that role from you would be very helpful, especially at a time of major change with the new building.

There are several matters which first were discussed when Harry Fitzwater was in place and which need to be reviewed. One concerns the bronze bust of Vice President Bush, which the DCI has accepted as a gift from Vincent Melzac on behalf of the Agency. (The correspondence relating to that gift is attached). Mr. Melzac, a noted art collector, has for many years shared his extensive collection of modern American art with the Agency, and many of the canvasses from this collection are displayed in the main concourse of the Headquarters building. I am even now making arrangements to have the bust transferred here and we would appreciate your thoughts on what might be an appropriate place for temporary as well as final

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display for that work of art.

In addition, the Commission, with Harry's permission, had entered into preliminary and informal discussions with Mr. Melzac on an offer he made to have the Agency purchase some of his collection, in return for which he would donate an even larger number of paintings for our permanent retention. Hank Mahoney, working with Harry, had given us a figure of \$30,000 for such purchases (memorandum attached). With Gramm-Rudman-Hollings looming over our heads, I recognize that we will have to discuss this issue thoroughly.

There may be matters that you would like to raise with us about the Commission's role--perhaps what we should be doing and aren't! In any case, I look forward to a discussion with you and hope that, after you have time to think about this memorandum, you will ask your secretary to arrange an appointment. At that time, I would like to bring the advisor to the Commission (and one more familiar with its workings than I am) with me.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

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